THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. The Department has not received any anthrax laced mail.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The postal staff handling foreign mail at foreign post offices in New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai have been provided with hand gloves and face masks. Guidelines have been issued to all the concerned staff regarding the handling of suspicious mail.

**Telephone Connections**

478. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICXTIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections provided during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of cellular telephone subscribers provided during the last three years; and

(c) what was the target for telephone connections for the year 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The required information for the last three year is as given below:—

| Year | Number of telephone connections provided (fixed telephones) | Number of cellular sub-scribers provided |
|---|---|---|
| 1998-1999 | 3.81 million | 0.32 million |
| 1999-2000 | 5.04 million | 0.68 million |
| 2000-2001 | 6.06 million | 1.7 million |

(c) The target for telephone connections for the year 2000-2001 was 5.790 million lines for public sector units of the department.

**Production and import of oilseeds**

479. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the production and import figures of oilseeds during the last three financial years, year-wise;

(b) the steps taken to increase production of oilseeds in thexountry; and

(c) the countries from where oilseeds are imported and their percentage share during the last financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) (i) The production of oilseeds during the last three years is as under:—

(in lakh MT)

| Year | Production of Oilseeds |
|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 247.5 |
| 1999-2000 | 208.7 |
| 2000-2001 | 182.0(E) |

(E)lEstimated

(ii) The import of oilseeds in terms of value during the last three years is as under:—

(Rs. in lakh)

| Year | Value of Import of Oilseeds |
|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 851.97 |
| 1999-2000 | 1542.04 |
| 2000-2001 | 788.76 |

(b) In order to increase the production of oilseeds in the country, a centrally sponsored scheme Oilseeds Production Programme(OPP) is in implementation in 28 States covering 408 districts. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided on various inputs like production and distribution of seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of improved farms implements, sprinkler sets, rhizobium culture and PSB/micro nutrients etc. In order to disseminate the production technology amongst farmers, frontline demonstrations are organized by the I.G.A.R. Besides, block and integrated pest management demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture. A new component of crash programme for quality seed production of groundnut and soyabean has also been introduced during the Ninth plan at an early date.

(c) * Value-wise percentage share of the countries from where oilseeds were imported during the last financial year is as under:—

| Country | Percentage Share |
|---|---|
| Australia | Negligible |
| Belgium | 2.8 |
| Ghana | 0.9 |
| Mayanmar | 58.5 |
| Nepal | 20.6 |
| Nigeria | 2.2 |
| Pakistan | 0.9 |
| Singapore | 1.5 |
| Turkey | 1.9 |
| UAE | 1.6 |
| UJC | Negligible |
| USA | 9.1 |

*Source: Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Ministry of Commerce.

**Storage capacity of FCI in Andhra Pradesh**

480. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has urged to take necessary measures to increase storage capacity of FCI in the State for adequate procurement of rice; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to acquire additional storage capacity of 15 lakh tonnes in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Under Seven Year Guarantee Scheme storage capacity for 15 lakh MT was sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh in June and August, 2001 (5 lakh MT in June, 2001 and 10 lakh MT in August, 2001). This storage capacity is being constructed through Andhra Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation. The